

PUBLIC BROADCASTING  
CLARIFICATION

• Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I wish to correct an error in my statement from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of January 24, 1995. In a discussion of the financial potential of public broadcasting, my statement as published stated that, according to the viewer magazine of WETA Washington, this public television station's viewers have an average household net worth of \$627,000 plus an average investment portfolio of \$249,000. My statement should have been recorded as saying WETA's contributors, not its viewers, have that financial status.●

## MORNING BUSINESS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 78—RECOGNIZING HALEYVILLE, AL, THE BIRTHPLACE OF "911"

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, since communication is crucial to acting in any emergency, the familiar 911 emergency telephone system has been recognized throughout the country as a key factor in fire, police, medical, and rescue personnel being able to respond quickly. Often, there are only a few precious minutes separating life and death. In many cases, quick action means life.

Back on February 16, 1968, a historic first test call of the 911 system was made to a red telephone located at the Haleyville, AL, police dispatch office, a call that marked the beginning of a service that has helped save lives and protect property for 27 years. The call was answered by Congressman TOM BEVILL. The town's 911 system has been in continuous service ever since, longer than anywhere else in the Nation.

Haleyville's telephone switching wiring, which required little modification in order to accommodate 911, was the main reason it worked here first. Haleyville is located in Winston County, in the northwest corner of Alabama.

Alabamians are justifiably proud of the contribution they have made to public safety, and the resolution I introduced commends Haleyville for its unique place in the history of the 911 service that we often take for granted today.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this resolution.

## THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, this afternoon, in New York, Ambassador Madeleine Albright will sign the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. This marks a small, but long overdue step toward improving the lot of the world's children. I urge the President to take a much larger, and equally overdue step, and submit the convention at once to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification.

I have stood on the Senate floor many times over the past 6 years to discuss the importance of this convention and to urge its ratification. There are many arguments in favor of the convention, but they all boil down to one basic point—children in less-fortunate circumstances deserve the same rights and protections we demand for our own kids.

In addition, whether we ratify it or not, the convention is a reminder that we ourselves have much to do to make sure that every American child enjoys the full benefits of the principles enshrined in this convention. It is a standing reproach to our own unsuccessful efforts to end the tragedy of infant mortality, the terror of child abuse, the scourge of drugs, and the wasted potential of school dropouts.

The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child recognizes, as does U.S. law, that children need special protections. It states that every child has the right to a name and nationality, stresses the importance of child survival measures, pledges the signatories to work to abolish traditional practices harmful to children's health, recognizes the importance of education, and prohibits sexual exploitation.

Opponents of the convention argue that it would insert government into the parent-child relationship. They assert that it would take children away from parents. This simply is not true. The convention is explicit on the primacy of the parents in the life of the child. For example, article 5 states:

States Parties shall respect the responsibilities, rights and duties of parents . . . to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of the rights recognized in the present Convention.

But, as a practical document, the convention also recognizes that there will be times when the parents are unable to fulfill their responsibilities. In these cases, the convention requires the State to step in, in accordance with the best interests of the child. This is already the practice in the United States. But, for the first time, the convention lays down commonsense guidelines to make sure that, in those extraordinary cases in which the State must intervene, its actions are in fact in the best interests of the child.

So far, 176 nations have ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The list of countries that have not is a rogue's gallery of international pariahs such as Libya and Iraq. It is an embarrassment to the United States to be on this list.

But ratification is more than a matter of appearances. The lives of children are at stake. Until we ratify this convention, we will be unable to exert the leadership necessary to make a difference in the lives of the world's children. President Clinton has done the right thing by instructing Ambassador Albright to sign the convention. He should now submit it to the Senate, and we should ratify it without delay.

WAS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE?  
THE VOTERS HAVE SAID YES!

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I doubt that there have been many, if any, candidates for the Senate who have not pledged to do something about the enormous Federal debt run up by the Congress during the past half-century or more. But Congress, both House and Senate, have never up to now even toned down the deficit spending that sent the Federal debt into the stratosphere and beyond.

We must pray that this year will be different, that Federal spending will at long last be reduced drastically. Indeed, if we care about America's future, there must be some changes.

You see, Mr. President, as of the close of business Wednesday, February 15, the Federal debt stood (down to the penny) at exactly \$4,828,675,772,079.58. This means that on a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$18,329.74 as his or her share of the Federal debt.

Compare this, Mr. President, to the total debt about two years ago (January 5, 1993) when the debt stood at exactly \$4,167,872,986,583.67—or averaged out, \$15,986.56 for every American. During the past 2 years (that is, during the 103d Congress) the Federal debt increased over \$6 billion.

This illustrates, Mr. President, the point that so many politicians talk a good game (at home) about bringing the Federal debt under control, but vote in support of bloated spending bills when they get back to Washington. If the Republicans do not do a better job of getting a handle on this enormous debt, their constituents are not likely to overlook it 2 years hence.

## WILLIAM F. LACKMAN, JR. (1929–1995)

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay respect to the memory of William F. Lackman, Jr., a resident of Middleburg, VA, who died last week at the age of 65. Mr. Lackman was a distinguished public servant to whom the Nation owes its most profound respect and gratitude.

Bill Lackman served his country for more than 40 years—first as an Army officer and then as a distinguished civilian member of the Defense Intelligence community. Graduating from West Point in 1951, Mr. Lackman served in the Army for 22 years, retiring in 1973 with the rank of colonel. He was a battle-hardened officer who led soldiers in combat during two different wars, Korea and Vietnam. Among a number of other prominent decorations, he won the Silver Star and twice earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Of profound significance is the fact that he was twice felled by battlefield wounds, meriting two awards of the Purple Heart. Nevertheless, he continued his military service because he was dedicated to the ideals embodied in the